AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An electronic shift control apparatus for a bicycle having a front transmission with a plurality of front speed stages, wherein the apparatus comprises:

a shift unit that provides signals for shifting the front transmission;

a restriction selecting unit ~~operated~~ operable by a user to select a restricted front speed stage represented by at least one of the plurality of front speed stages; and

a restricting unit operatively coupled to the shift unit and to the restriction selecting unit, wherein the restricting unit prevents the shift unit from providing signals to shift the front transmission to the restricted front speed stage.

CLAIM 2 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising riding condition sensing means for sensing a riding condition of the bicycle, wherein the shift unit cooperates with the riding condition sensing means to automatically operate the front transmission in accordance with the riding condition.

CLAIM 3 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the riding condition sensing means senses bicycle velocity.

CLAIM 4 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the riding condition sensing means is structured to sense bicycle velocity from signals output from an alternating current generator mounted to the bicycle.

CLAIM 5 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a manually operated shift control device that provides shift command signals to the shift unit, wherein the shift unit operates the front transmission in response to the shift command signals.

CLAIM 6 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

riding condition sensing means for sensing a riding condition of the bicycle, wherein the shift unit cooperates with the riding condition sensing means to automatically operate the front transmission in accordance with the riding condition; and

a manually operated shift control device that provides shift command signals to the shift unit, wherein the shift unit operates the front transmission in response to the shift command signals.

CLAIM 7 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the front transmission comprises a plurality of sprockets and an electronically controlled derailleur that engages a chain with selected ones of the plurality of sprockets to produce the plurality of front speed stages.

CLAIM 8 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the ~~user selects a~~ restricted front speed stage is selected by indicating a prohibited speed stage.

CLAIM 9 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the ~~user selects a~~ restricted front speed stage is selected by indicating an allowed speed stage.

CLAIMS 10-15 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 16 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1 ~~wherein the transmission comprises a front transmission and a rear transmission, wherein the front transmission has a plurality of front speed stages,~~ wherein the bicycle has a rear transmission ~~has~~ with a plurality of rear speed stages, and wherein the shift unit provides signals for shifting the rear transmission ~~restriction selecting unit selects a restricted speed stage of at least one of the front transmission and the rear transmission~~.

CLAIM 17 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the ~~at least one of the~~ front transmission ~~and the rear transmission~~ comprises a plurality of sprockets and an electronically controlled derailleur that engages a chain with selected ones of the plurality of sprockets to produce a plurality of individual front speed stages, and wherein the restriction selecting unit selects a restricted front speed stage represented by at least one of the plurality of individual front speed stages.

CLAIM 18 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim ~~17~~ 16 wherein the front transmission comprises a plurality of front sprockets and an electronically controlled front derailleur that engages a chain with selected ones of the plurality of front sprockets to produce a

plurality of front speed stages, and wherein the rear transmission comprises a plurality of rear sprockets and an electronically controlled rear derailleur that engages the chain with selected ones of the plurality of rear sprockets to produce a plurality of rear speed stages~~, and wherein the restriction selecting unit selects a restricted speed stage represented by at least one of the plurality of front speed stages and the plurality of rear speed stages~~.

CLAIM 19 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 20 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim ~~19~~ 18 further comprising riding condition sensing means for sensing a riding condition of the bicycle, wherein the shift unit cooperates with the riding condition sensing means to automatically operate the front transmission and the rear transmission in accordance with the riding condition.

CLAIM 21 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim ~~19~~ 18 further comprising a manually operated shift control device that provides shift command signals to the shift unit, wherein the shift unit operates ~~the transmission~~ at least one of the front transmission and the rear transmission in response to the shift command signals.

CLAIM 22 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim ~~19~~ 18 further comprising:

riding condition sensing means for sensing a riding condition of the bicycle, wherein the shift unit cooperates with the riding condition sensing means to automatically operate the front transmission and the rear transmission in accordance with the riding condition; and

a manually operated shift control device that provides shift command signals to the shift unit, wherein the shift unit operates ~~the transmission~~ at least one of the front transmission and the rear transmission in response to the shift command signals.